

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Thousands of officers gather to show their anger over pay and conditions

Syreeta Lund

Around 2,000 police officers gathered in Westminster to voice their concerns that the police service is taking an unfair share of government cuts.

Paul McKeever, chair of the Police Federation, was given a standing ovation after branding cuts, including a 20 percent budget cut and pay freeze, a “disgrace”. Officers from all over the UK came to Methodist Central Hall in London this month (July 13) in support of fair pay and conditions and to ask Home Secretary Theresa May to honour the police pay negotiation process.

Ian Campbell, chairman of the sergeants’ branch board at Greater Manchester Police Federation, was one of the many who made the journey to make sure the government understand the strength of feeling among officers.



He told Police magazine: “We came here to keep the issue alive about what is happening to policing, what the government is doing to the service and police officers isn’t right. Everyone is finding it really difficult. There is no need for the cuts to be so deep and so sharp.”

Officers face a two-year pay freeze as well as an incremental pay freeze and a likely increase in pension contributions. The Day of Action also included a lobbying event where representatives from forces spoke to their local MPs to highlight the issues officers face.

Speakers at the Open Day included Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, ACPO president Hugh Orde and Brendan Barber, general secretary of the TUC.

Ian Rennie, general secretary of the Police Federation, spoke at the meeting and outlined the “unprecedented attack” on officers’ terms and conditions in a number of reviews including the Winsor review on pay and conditions.

Simon Reed, vice-chair, added: “I hope the message we are giving is that we are being reasonable trying to engage with the government in good faith in the negotiating process. We need to send the message to them we have big concerns at what they are doing. There are real dangers to public safety if police numbers are cut.”